



Memorandum

To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

From: Wendy Katagi and Jennifer Jones, CDM Smith

Date: January 5, 2015

Subject: Bird Nesting Survey #2 for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the methods and findings of the second bird nesting survey for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. This memorandum is also intended to fulfill POLICY NO. 23 - MARINA DEL REY TREE PRUNING AND TREE REMOVAL POLICY of Marina del Rey Land Use Plan dated Feb 8, 2012.

Cutting of non-native *Myoporum* trees was completed in December, 2014, prior to the start of the bird nesting season (January 1). Tree removal activities will continue on January 5, 2015, and will include chipping the cut material and cutting a few additional non-native trees. A biologist will be present on-site to conduct daily monitoring of tree removal activities beginning January 5, 2015. Separate monitoring reports will be prepared to document the findings of daily monitoring.

Methods

The second bird nesting survey was conducted by Jennifer Jones, CDM Smith biologist on January 4, 2015. The survey began at approximately 1:00 p.m. and was completed at approximately 4:00 p.m.

During the survey, the biologist walked the entire project area and visually surveyed all habitat, including the remaining standing trees and the piles of cut trees, with a pair of binoculars. Potential nests were observed for several minutes to determine the presence of birds or nesting activity. Birds present in the project area were observed for any evidence of breeding behavior (e.g., courtship, carrying nesting material or food).

Results

No active bird nests were observed inside the project boundary, along the bike path, or within Yvonne Burke Park near the site. Within the project boundary, there are 2 inactive and/or old nests- both located in large Eucalyptus trees in the southeast portion of the project site along Admiralty Way. Near the western end of the site, a male Anna's hummingbird was observed doing a display that could indicate courtship; however, no nest or other indication of breeding was observed.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during the nesting survey.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Bird Nesting Survey on January 4, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	3 individuals foraging in Basin
American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	Several foraging throughout Basin
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	2 individuals foraging in Basin
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	Several foraging throughout Basin
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	1 individual foraging in Basin
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	Several foraging throughout Basin
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	Several foraging throughout Basin
Gull	<i>Larus</i> sp.	Several flyovers
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Several observed flying over Basin
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	Several observed around Basin
Allen's Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus sasin</i>	1 individual foraging at eastern portion of Basin
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	1 individual foraging in Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Two individuals foraging around Basin
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several observed in vegetation and flying over Basin
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	2-3 individuals foraging in southern portion of Basin
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	1 individual observed in eastern portion of Basin
Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Oreothlypis celata</i>	1 individual foraging in eastern portion of Basin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	Several individuals foraging around Basin
White-crowned sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	1 individual observed in vegetation in fencerow at western end of Basin
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	Several observed foraging at eastern end of Basin
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	Several observed in vegetation around Basin

Conclusions

A nesting bird survey was conducted on January 4, 2015 by a CDM Smith biologist in compliance with POLICY NO. 23 - MARINA DEL REY TREE PRUNING AND TREE REMOVAL POLICY. No active nests were identified within the project boundary or within 500 feet of the project boundary. Based on the results of the survey, tree removal activities are in compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code, and would not result in impacts to breeding, roosting and nesting habitats of federal and state-listed species, California Species of Special Concern, and colonial waterbirds. A biologist will be present on-site to conduct daily monitoring of tree removal activities beginning January 5, 2015. Separate monitoring reports will be prepared to document the findings of daily monitoring.